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Patent
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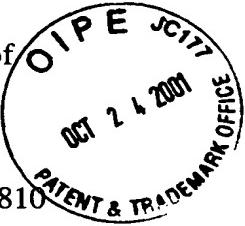
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
SCHUTZ et al

Application No.: 09/117,810

Filed: May 12, 1999

For: SPERMATOGENESIS CONTROL



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Group Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: F. Lu

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In complete response to the final Official Action mailed on April 24, 2001, in connection with the subject application, applicants provide the following amendments and remarks.

In The Claims:

Please replace claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) A process for investigating spermatogenesis and monitoring it, respectively, in a male animal, comprising puncturing the animal's testis and detecting the presence of cAMP responsive element modulator (CREM) and/or CREM-dependent proteins, wherein if CREM is not expressed or expressed only to a reduced extent and not expressed in phosphorylated form, respectively, so that CREM-dependent proteins are not expressed either or expressed only to a reduced extent, there will be unbalanced